



AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/073,020
Attorney Docket No. Q68492

Art Unit No. 2621

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): A digital watermark embedding method of embedding a digital watermark, which is a signal generated according to specific rules, in contents comprising digital data, the method comprising the processes of:

increasing a strength of the digital watermark forcefully during a predetermined time period at a beginning of the digital watermark corresponding to the contents; and
embedding the digital watermark in the contents.

2. (original): The digital watermark embedding method according to claim 1, wherein the process of increasing the strength sets the strength of the digital watermark to a constant value during said predetermined time period.

3. (original): The digital watermark embedding method according to claim 1, wherein the process of increasing the strength increases the strength of the digital watermark during said predetermined time period up to a predetermined magnification with respect to the strength in the other time period.

4. (original): The digital watermark embedding method according to claim 1, wherein

the process of increasing sets the strength of the digital watermark during said predetermined time period to a predetermined value obtained by adding a constant value to the strength in the other time period.

5. (original): The digital watermark embedding method according to claim 1, wherein the process of embedding the digital watermark embeds the digital watermark in the contents such that an output timing of the beginning of the digital watermark is prior to a beginning of the contents.

6. (original): A digital watermark embedding apparatus for embedding a digital watermark, which is a signal generated according to specific rules, in contents comprising digital data, the apparatus comprising:

a strength increasing device for increasing a strength of the digital watermark forcefully during a predetermined time period at a beginning of the digital watermark corresponding to the contents; and

an embedding device for embedding the digital watermark in the contents.

7. (original): The digital watermark embedding apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the strength increasing device sets the strength of the digital watermark during said predetermined time period to a constant value.

8. (original): The digital watermark embedding apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the strength increasing device increases the strength of the digital watermark during said predetermined time period up to a predetermined magnification with respect to the strength in the other time period.

9. (original): The digital watermark embedding apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the strength increasing device sets the strength of the digital watermark during said predetermined time period to a predetermined value obtained by adding a constant value to the strength in the other time period.

10. (original): The digital watermark embedding apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the embedding device embeds the digital watermark in the contents such that a beginning of the digital watermark is prior to a beginning of the contents.

11-15. (canceled).